

FARMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY AND PROCEDURE



Policy Number:
242-16

Effective Date:
08/17/2016

Subject:
Cold Case Investigations

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.D. Hebbe".

Steven D. Hebbe, Chief of Police



PURPOSE:

To establish policy and procedures regarding the investigation of major cold cases.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Farmington Police Department to ensure all major cases involving Murder, First Degree Criminal Sexual Penetration, Kidnapping and other crimes (that have no time limitations for commencing prosecution as set forth by New Mexico State Statute 30-1-8) be investigated until all investigative leads are exhausted or the case is solved.

PROCEDURE:

A "cold case" will be defined as a major criminal investigation that has not been solved for a period of one year and has been designated as inactive under the guidelines set forth in FPD Criminal Investigations policy number 242-01.

A cold case review shall be conducted annually by the Detective Lieutenant or designee to establish if there have been technological advances in certain forensic tests that may aid in solving the case. Other considerations for reactivating a case would include newly developed leads and the availability of potential witnesses for prosecution purposes.

Detectives receiving a cold case assignment shall review the case and determine what information has been received to merit the case being reactivated. The case can also be reactivated based on new technology being discovered in fields like DNA. The detective should review the evidence collected in the case to determine if it warrants testing.

Any additional information received by a tip or a witness coming forward can lead to a case being reactivated, as long as it falls under the rules for time limitations for commencing prosecution.

Any additional information the investigating detective finds should be documented in a supplemental report attached to the case.

The Detective Lieutenant will prepare an annual report to apprise Command Staff of the status of all major cold cases.